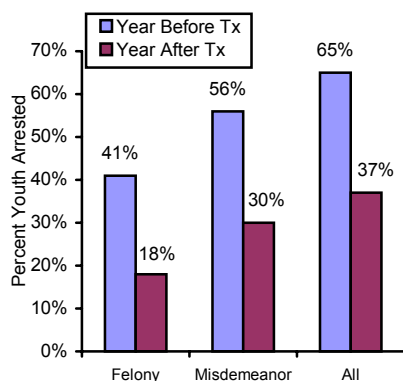
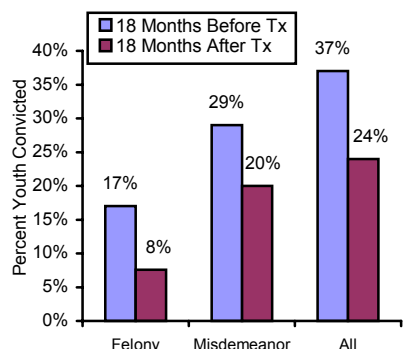


# **Chemical Dependency Treatment Reduces Crime in Washington State**

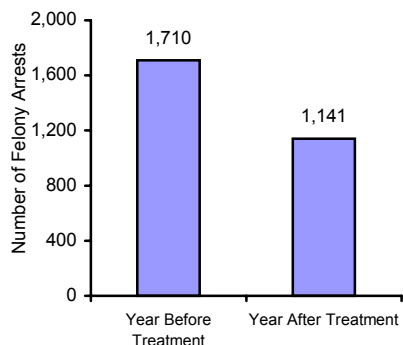
**Youth Arrests Declined Significantly After Inpatient Treatment**



**Youth Convictions Declined Significantly After Treatment**



**Adult Felony Arrests Declined by 33% in the Year After Treatment**



## **Arrests and Convictions Decreased After Treatment in Chemically Dependent Youth**

- A study of over 450 chemically dependent Washington State youth showed that felony arrests decreased 56% (from 41% to 18%) between the year before and the year after treatment for inpatient clients and 54% for outpatient clients (from 41% to 19%). Misdemeanor arrests decreased by 46% in inpatients (from 56% to 30%) and by 40% in outpatients (from 47% to 27%) (New Standards, Inc., 1997).
- A recent study of almost 6,000 Washington State youth, 14-17 years of age, revealed significant declines in convictions: 56% decline in felonies (from 17% in the 18-months before treatment to almost 8% in the 18-months after treatment) and a 30% decline in misdemeanors (from 29% to 20%). (Luchansky, He, Longhi, Krupski, & Stark, 2003).

## **Arrests and Participation in Illegal Activities Declined After Treatment in Chemically Dependent Adults**

- There was a 33% decline in the number of arrests for felony offenses in the year after treatment (compared to the year before) in a study of over 10,000 adult publicly-funded clients (Luchansky, He, & Longhi, 2002).
- Illegal activity declined 85% in a study of almost 600 adults discharged from publicly-funded chemical dependency residential treatment (from an average of 4.1 days engaged in illegal activities in the 30 days prior to treatment admission to 0.6 days in such activities in the 30 days prior to the 6-month follow-up). Average 30-day earnings from illegal activity declined 93%, from \$485 at admission to \$32 at follow-up (Carney & Donovan, 2000).
- Pregnant and parenting women who received chemical dependency treatment (n=763) had a decrease of more than 50 percent in arrest rate in the two years after treatment (Cawthon, 2004).
- In a study of over 20,000 chemically dependent Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients it was found that the likelihood of being arrested in the year after treatment was 16 percent lower when clients received chemical dependency treatment. The likelihood of a felony conviction was reduced by 34 percent (Estee & Nordlund, 2003).

## **Clients Who Stayed in Treatment Longer Had Better Criminal Justice Outcomes**

- Treatment episodes over 90 days in length were associated with a 32% reduction in the probability of a felony arrest in the 18 months following discharge. Completing a treatment episode was associated with a 21% reduction the probability of an arrest (n=10,284) (Luchansky, He, & Longhi, 2002).
- A recent study of almost 6,000 Washington State youth, 14-17 years of age, showed that clients completing treatment had a 29% reduction in risk of a felony conviction and a 17% reduction in the risk of any conviction (Luchansky, He, Longhi, Krupski, & Stark, 2003).

*For every dollar spent on Drug Court, taxpayers receive roughly \$2.45 in benefits to the criminal justice system.*

*Persons addicted to drugs need not be internally motivated at the outset of treatment to benefit from it. In fact, such persons legally pressured into treatment often have better outcomes than voluntary clients.*

*For more information on outcome studies of chemical dependency treatment, contact:*

Research Investigator  
Division of Alcohol & Substance Abuse  
Department of Social & Health Services  
PO Box 45330  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Phone: (360) 438-8200, or toll-free at  
(877) 301-4557

Website: [www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa/](http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/dasa/)

- A recent study of 135 persons admitted to opiate substitution treatment found that those clients participating in treatment for at least 170 days reported less time in jail and fewer days engaging in illegal activity at 6- and 12- months following discharge compared to clients who stayed in treatment for less than 170 days (Carney, 2003).

### ***Drug Court Participation Was Associated With Fewer Re-Arrests and Cost Savings to the Criminal Justice System***

- Drug Court participants who completed a full course of chemical dependency treatment (n=297) were significantly less likely to be re-arrested in the 25 months following admission than the combined group of individuals who failed, dropped out, opted out, or were ineligible for the Drug Court Program (n=788).. (Cox et al 2001).
- A study of drug courts conducted by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimated that, for every dollar spent on Drug Court, taxpayers receive roughly \$2.45 in benefits to the criminal justice system (Washington Institute for Public Policy, 1999).

### ***Coerced Treatment Is Effective***

- A conclusion of a recent review of the national literature is that persons addicted to drugs need not be internally motivated at the outset of treatment to benefit from it. In fact, such persons who are legally pressured into treatment often have better outcomes than voluntary clients because they are likely to stay in treatment longer and are more likely to graduate (Satel, 1999).
- Another review of literature reached a similar conclusion, stating that coerced addiction treatment typically results in favorable outcomes among criminal populations, with coerced convicts complying as well as those not mandated to treatment (Miller & Flaherty, 2000).

### ***References***

- Carney, M. (2003). Fact Sheet: *"Clinical Changes Over Time Based on Length of Stay in Opiate Substitution Treatment."* Seattle, WA: University of Washington, Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute.
- Carney, M., & Donovan, D. M. (2000). Fact Sheet: *"Washington State Outcomes Project. Clinical Improvement from the Adult Residential Treatment System 6 Months Post Discharge."* Olympia, WA: Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Department of Social and Health Services.
- Cawthon, L., (2004). Fact Sheet: *"First Steps Database. Safe Babies, Safe Moms."* Olympia, WA: Research and Data Analysis Department of Social and Health Services.
- Cox, G., Brown, L., Morgan, C., & Hansten, M. (2001). Drug Court Evaluation Project. Final Report. Seattle, WA: Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, University of Washington.
- Estee, S., & Nordlund, D. J. (2003). *Washington State Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Cost Offset Pilot Project. 2002 Progress Report.* Olympia, WA: Research and Data Analysis Division, Department of Social and Health Services.
- Luchansky, B., He, L., & Longhi, D. (2002). Fact Sheet: *"Substance Abuse Treatment and Arrests: Analyses from Washington State."* Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse.
- Luchansky, B., He, L., Longhi, D., Krupski, A., & Stark, K. (2003). *Treatment Readmissions and Criminal Recidivism in Youth Following Participation in Chemical Dependency Treatment.* Manuscript in preparation for publication.
- Miller, N. S., & Flaherty, J. A. (2000). Effectiveness of coerced addiction treatment (alternative consequences). A review of the clinical research. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 18, 9-16.
- New Standards, Inc. (1997). *Washington State Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse One-Year Adolescent Outcomes Report.* Olympia, WA: Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Department of Social and Health Services.
- Satel, S. L. (1999). *Drug Treatment. The Case for Coercion.* Washington, DC: The AEI Press.
- Washington State Institute for Public Policy (1999). *"Can Drug Courts Save Money for Washington State Taxpayers?"* Olympia, WA.